

Department of State

TELEGRAM

E65

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AN: 0800023-1180

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02; SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 IC AE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACOA-12 HA-05 SES-01 SSN-02 SPH-01 SSM-03 SY-05
SYE-00 DCT-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SMS-01 OPR-02 CA-01
A-02 /119 W

-----073404 141237Z 117

O R 141038Z JAN 80
FM ANCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 578
INFO /AMBASSY KABUL 705
AMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL PESHAWAR 6015

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/13/80 (ARCHARD, D.B.) OR-M
TAGS: PK AF PINS
SUBJ: ~~FIGHTING NEAR JALALABAD~~

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, AFGHAN INSURGENTS FOUGHT PITCHED BATTLES WITH TROOPS NEAR JALALABAD FOR SEVERAL DAYS, CONTINUING THROUGH JANUARY 11. ACCOUNTS DIFFER AS TO WHETHER RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES WERE INVOLVED IN THE FRAYS. A ROAD BLOCK ON JANUARY 9, CONSISTING OF FELLED TREES SUPPORTED BY SNIPERS ON MAIN ROAD NEAR JALALABAD MAY HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING GUERRILLA ACTION.

3. MOST RECENT ACCOUNTS OF JALALABAD FIGHTING COME FROM SEVERAL BRITISH JOURNALISTS WHO TRAVELLED THROUGH AREA ON JANUARY 9 AND 11, AND TALKED TO ME LATER. ONE, TIMES OF LONDON'S IAN MURRAY, CALLED ON PAKISTANI CONSUL IN JALALABAD ON JANUARY 11. CONSUL REPORTED FIRING IN AREA EVERY DAY

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SINCE DECEMBER 26. AT NIGHT, FIRING SO HEAVY AS TO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
 1/ RELEASE
 () EXIST
 () DENY
 () DELETE

REVIEWED by *SA*

() CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TO () S or () C, OADR

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Date 5/21/90

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PRECLUDE SLEEP. HE SAID: MT-24 HELICOPTERS FLEW MANY SORTIES IN AREA. CONSUL THOUGHT RUSSIANS WERE PILOTING CHOPPERS AND PROVIDING OTHER SUPPORT, BUT NOT IN GROUND COMBAT ROLE. HE SET NUMBER OF RUSSIAN TROOPS IN JALALABAD AT ABOUT 1,000, NONE OF WHOM HAVE BEEN SEEN ON THE STREETS. COMMENT: NONE OF THE MANY TRAVELLERS ON KABUL-TORKAM ROAD TO WHOM I HAVE TALKED HAS SEEN ANY RUSSIANS THIS SIDE OF PUL-I-CHARXI.

4. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT KUGIANI TRIBESMEN, AND POSSIBLE SHINWARIS, ARE INVOLVED IN FIGHTING. IN LATE DECEMBER, INSURGENT SOURCES TOLD ME THAT MAULVI YUNIS KHALIS, A KUGIANI, HAS BEEN IN ACTION SOUTH OF JALALABAD FOR MANY DAYS. KHALIS, HEAD OF BREAK-AWAY FACTION OF HIZB ISLAMI, IS WIDELY ADMIRER BY REBELS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AT FRONT. ON JANUARY 12, INSURGENT SIBGHATULLAH MUJADEDI TOLD BRITISH NEWSMEN THAT TRIBES FIGHTING WERE KUGIANIS AND SHINWARIS. ACCORDING TO MUJADEDI, INSURGENTS WERE IN DIRECT COMBAT WITH RUSSIANS. SOME MUJAHADIN TOLD REPORTERS THAT ACTION TAKING PLACE NEAR OLD BRITISH RETREAT ROAD OUTSIDE JALALABAD.

5. BRIAN EADS OF THE OBSERVER WAS ABOARD A PESHAWAR BOUND BUS JANUARY 9 WHICH WAS STOPPED BY ROAD BLOCK JUST EAST OF POWER STATION NEAR JALALABAD. INSURGENTS HAD FELLED ABOUT TWENTY TREES ACROSS ROAD NIGHT BEFORE. RIFLEMEN SNIPED AT CLEARING PARTY AND AT POWER HOUSE, KEPT BLOCK IN PLACE UNTIL 10 A.M.

5. OTHER GUERILLA ACTION IN AREA INCLUDING DESTRUCTION OF AN ELECTRICITY PYLON, ACCORDING TO PAK CONSUL. CONSUL TOLD BRITS THAT CITY SO TENSE THAT LOCAL SIKH COMMUNITY
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ARE DELUGING HIM WITH REQUESTS FOR TRANSIT VISAS TO INDIA FOR THEIR FAMILIES.
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